

S.N. 09/995,492

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (New) A secure transaction system comprising
a plurality of servers for providing a web-based tax service that allows
merchant subscribers to accumulate tax information; and
means for providing security for information on the servers and information
transmitted between the servers and the merchant subscribers.

20. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the web-based tax service
further includes tax identification, tax computation, tax collection, tax remittance
and tax reporting for audit servers.

21. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the security means includes
managed firewalls for preventing unwanted data from being entered into the
system while data is being transmitted between subscribers and the servers.

22. (New) The system of claim 19, further comprising means for providing
balancing and scalability of the servers.

23. (New) The system of claim 19 wherein the security means includes a
tiered architecture, PKI 2-way authentication and authorization, HTTPS post, with
XML document and SSH for remote administration.

24. (New) The system of claim 19, further comprising means for
recording the disk usage, access logging and heart beat monitoring and sending
alerts.